

COMMITTEES  
 JUDICIARY  
 CHAIR  
 AGRICULTURE  
 BANKING & FINANCIAL  
 INSTITUTIONS  
 BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW  
 BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #4  
 GOVERNMENTAL  
 ORGANIZATION  
 NATURAL RESOURCES  
 AND WATER  
 JOINT COMMITTEE ON  
 FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE  
 VICE CHAIR  
 SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
 CALIFORNIA'S WINE INDUSTRY  
 CHAIR  
 LEGISLATIVE WOMEN'S CAUCUS  
 CHAIR

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
 NOREEN EVANS  
 SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



September 19, 2013

STATE CAPITOL  
 SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
 (916) 631-4002  
 50 D STREET  
 SUITE 120A  
 SANTA ROSA, CA 95404  
 (707) 576-2771  
 710 E STREET  
 SUITE 180  
 EUREKA, CA 95501  
 (707) 445-6508  
 200 SOUTH SCHOOL STREET  
 UKIAH, CA 95482  
 (707) 468-8914  
 1040 MAIN STREET  
 SUITE 205  
 NAPA, CA 94559  
 (707) 224-1990  
 444 GEORGIA STREET  
 VALLEJO, CA 94590  
 (707) 648-5312

Mr. Douglas H. Bosco, Chairman  
 California State Coastal Conservancy  
 1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> floor  
 Oakland, CA 94612

**Re: Support for Humboldt County request for Ryan Creek acquisition grant.**

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I wish to express my strong support for the County of Humboldt's request to the Conservancy for a \$950,000 grant to acquire approximately 1,000 acres of forestland to create a publicly accessible community forest along Ryan Creek, adjacent to the City of Eureka in Humboldt County. Approval of this grant by the Coastal Conservancy would complete the funding plan for this important project.

I have long supported the protection of Ryan Creek's valuable coastal wetlands, redwood forest habitat, and riparian resources, which support critical spawning, rearing, and migration habitat for anadromous fish populations, including federally threatened coho salmon and steelhead trout. The proposed Ryan Creek Community Forest would protect 1,225 acres of the Ryan Creek watershed—acreage that is threatened by subdivision and conversion to non-forest uses.

The acquisition of these acres by Humboldt County from the current owner, Green Diamond Resource Company will conserve these unique forests, protect the region's water quality and supply, and protect vitally important habitat and migration corridors for fish and wildlife.

The project will also catalyze a larger conservation plan, which involves the placement of a conservation easement over Green Diamond's remaining 6,325 acres of working forest lands in the Ryan Creek watershed. The proposed Ryan Creek Community Forest will provide an important conservation buffer for these productive and ecologically important timberlands.

Thank you for your consideration of this vital project to protect and restore the tidal marshes in Humboldt Bay and the region, while building a strong community partnership for environmental stewardship.

Sincerely,



Noreen Evans  
Senator, 2<sup>nd</sup> District

**COMMITTEES**

NATURAL RESOURCES, CHAIR  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON DISABILITIES, CHAIR  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON WINE, CHAIR  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES AND  
AQUACULTURE, CHAIR  
BUDGET  
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #1  
JOINT LEGISLATIVE BUDGET  
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION  
HEALTH

**Assembly  
California Legislature**



**WESLEY CHESBRO**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SECOND DISTRICT

**STATE CAPITOL**  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0002  
(916) 319-2002  
FAX (916) 319-2102

**DISTRICT OFFICES**  
710 E. STREET, SUITE 150  
EUREKA, CA 95501  
(707) 445-7014  
FAX (707) 445-6607

50 "D" STREET, SUITE 450  
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404  
(707) 576-2526  
FAX (707) 576-2297

200 SOUTH SCHOOL STREET, SUITE D  
UKIAH, CA 95482  
(707) 463-5770  
FAX (707) 463-5773

September 17, 2013

Mr. Douglas H. Bosco, Chairman  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing in support of the County of Humboldt's request to the Coastal Conservancy for a \$950,000 grant to acquire approximately 1,000 acres of forestland to create a publicly accessible community forest along Ryan Creek, adjacent to the City of Eureka in Humboldt County.

This project will protect Ryan Creek's valuable coastal wetlands, redwood forest habitat, and riparian resources, which support critical spawning, rearing, and migration habitat for anadromous fish populations, including federally threatened coho salmon and steelhead trout. The proposed Ryan Creek Community Forest would protect 1,225 acres of the Ryan Creek watershed—acreage that is highly threatened by conversion to non-forest uses.

The acquisition of these acres by Humboldt County from the current owner, Green Diamond Resource Company is the best solution to conserving these unique forests, protecting the region's water quality and supply, and protecting vitally important habitat and migration corridors for fish and wildlife.

The project will also catalyze a larger conservation plan, which involves the placement of a conservation easement over Green Diamond's remaining 6,325 acres of working forest lands in the Ryan Creek watershed. The proposed Ryan Creek Community Forest will provide an important conservation buffer to these productive and ecologically important timberlands.

I urge you to fund this most worthwhile project to protect and restore the tidal marshes in Humboldt Bay and the region, while building a strong community partnership for environmental stewardship.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call my office.

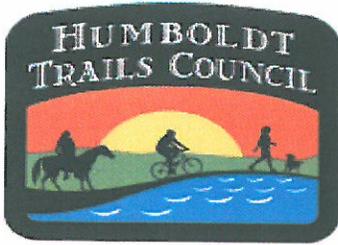
Respectfully,

**WESLEY CHESBRO**  
Assemblyman, 2<sup>nd</sup> District

WC: mh



### Exhibit 3. Project Letters



Mr. Douglas H. Bosco, Chairman  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

September 9, 2013

Dear Chairman Bosco:

We wish to express support for the County of Humboldt's request to the Conservancy for a \$950,000 grant to acquire approximately 1,000 acres of forestland to create a publicly accessible community forest along Ryan Creek, adjacent to the City of Eureka in Humboldt County.

Our Board supports the protection of Ryan Creek's valuable coastal wetlands, redwood forest habitat, and riparian resources, which support critical spawning, rearing, and migration habitat for anadromous fish populations, including federally threatened coho salmon and steelhead trout. The proposed Ryan Creek Community Forest would protect 1,225 acres of the Ryan Creek watershed—acreage that is highly threatened by conversion to non-forest uses.

We believe the acquisition of these acres by Humboldt County from the current owner, Green Diamond Resource Company, is the best solution to conserving these unique forests, protecting the region's water quality and supply, and protecting vitally important habitat and migration corridors for fish and wildlife. The project will also catalyze a larger conservation plan, which involves the placement of a conservation easement over Green Diamond's remaining 6,325 acres of working forest lands in the Ryan Creek watershed. The proposed Ryan Creek Community Forest will provide an important conservation buffer to these productive and ecologically important timberlands.

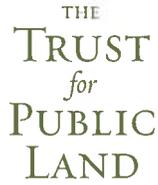
Finally, we believe there is a substantial long-term benefit for the residents of Eureka and the surrounding community who would use this forest and benefit from its inclusion in their overall resource options. It is a local legacy project that will be accessible to everyone for recreation and interpretation, and will enhance standard of living and property values.

I hope that you will fund this project to protect and restore the tidal marshes in Humboldt Bay and the region, while building a strong community partnership for environmental stewardship.

Sincerely,

Natalie Arroyo, Board Vice-President - signing on behalf of the the Humboldt Trails Council.

*The mission of the Humboldt Trails Council is to serve as a unified voice to support development and use of trails for recreation and transportation throughout Humboldt County.*



California Office  
101 Montgomery St  
Suite 1100  
San Francisco, CA  
94104  
T (415) 495-5660  
F (415) 495-0541  
www.tpl.org

May 14, 2012

Mr. Dan Ashe  
Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1849 C Street  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Ashe:

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is in strong support of the California State Coastal Conservancy's application to the FWS National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program.

TPL is a national, non-profit land conservation organization that conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, community gardens, historic sites, rural lands, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. TPL has been working to protect the natural resources of California's North Coast by partnering with municipal and federal governments, private timber companies, and local land trusts to acquire conservation lands and finance working forest conservation easements on key properties across the region. One of TPL's top priorities for North Coast conservation is protecting the important natural assets along Ryan Creek from encroaching development.

The proposed Ryan Creek Wetlands Conservation Project catalyzes the larger conservation plan established by TPL and Green Diamond Resource Company in 2010 to conserve the resource values of Green Diamond's 7,550 acres of working forest lands (known as the McKay Tract) in the Ryan Creek watershed. The proposed project will protect from development 192 acres of valuable coastal wetlands and associated uplands through a two-staged combined fee-title and conservation easement acquisition.

- The first stage acquisition of 168 acres of wetlands and associated uplands west of Ryan Creek will support the protection of an additional 1,120 acres of forested uplands through fee simple acquisition to comprise a County-managed community forest.
- The second stage protection of 24 acres of wetlands east of Ryan Creek will be accomplished through the purchase of a conservation easement over 5,550 acres to be managed by Green Diamond as a sustainable working forest.

TPL is contributing significant staff time towards the completion of this project, including all legal, appraisal and other transaction-related fees. TPL's contribution includes \$132,155 already expended in appraisal, planning, pre-acquisition studies, and staff and travel time for working with the landowner and project partners. TPL is also contributing \$10,000 in cash to Humboldt County to support feasibility studies for the community forest.

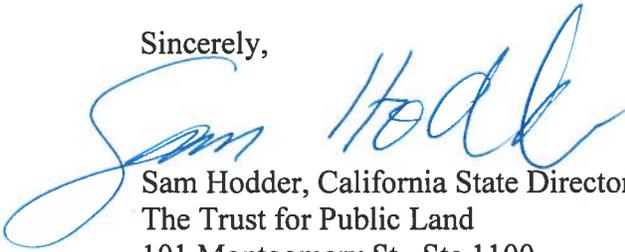


Exhibit 3. Project Letters

By prohibiting residential development, the project will protect and enhance habitat for plants, fish, and wildlife, provide public access and educational opportunities, and maintain existing wetlands, riparian, and forest habitat that is beneficial to the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem. Additionally, conservation-based ownership and management of the property will provide the site control needed to plan for future restoration work for the benefit of fish and wildlife. This project responds to a timely opportunity to protect critical wetlands habitat within the Humboldt Bay watershed, which is threatened by increasing development pressures.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,



Sam Hodder, California State Director  
The Trust for Public Land  
101 Montgomery St., Ste 1100  
San Francisco, California 94104

Exhibit 3. Project Letters



1301 Fifth Avenue  
Suite 2700

Seattle, Washington  
98101-2675

T (206) 224-5800  
F (206) 224-5809  
greendiamond.com

May 3, 2012

Mr. Dan Ashe  
Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1849 C Street  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Ashe:

In December of 2010 The Trust for Public Land (TPL) and Green Diamond Resource Company (Green Diamond) announced a proposal to preserve the vast majority of the 7,550-acre McKay Tract, including most of the watershed of Ryan Creek, as a productive working forest, and create a more manageable buffer between continued timberland management and the adjacent developed communities of Cutten and Ridgewood Heights.

TPL and Green Diamond have worked collaboratively in developing a conservation plan for the McKay Tract, a significant part of which is to be a community forest that could be owned and managed by the County, public agency or qualified non-profit group. TPL intends to acquire approximately 1,250 acres west of Ryan Creek from Green Diamond in fee for the community forest and then transfer the property to such an entity. Green Diamond is a willing seller of this portion of the McKay Tract which includes significant wetland areas in the lower reaches of Ryan Creek. In the interest of conserving the property for its forest, watershed, and wetland values, Green Diamond is also working with TPL to draft and enter into a conservation easement over the remainder of the McKay Tract lying generally to the east of Ryan Creek.

Green Diamond is very supportive of the State Coastal Conservancy's proposed Ryan Creek Wetlands Conservation Project. We recognize the tremendous natural resources associated with this property, and support management of these resources as part of a community forest to maintain and protect valuable habitat for fish and wildlife and to provide public access.

Green Diamond anticipates continued ownership of the remaining adjacent working forest lands east of Ryan Creek. As part of the overall conservation of the 7,550-acre McKay Tract, Green Diamond anticipates and fully intends to make an in-kind donation of interests in land not to exceed \$1,000,000 for the entire McKay Tract Conservation Project. Green Diamond, with TPL, has also provided significant time and resources to Humboldt County in support of their effort to establish a community forest in the Ryan Creek watershed.

We respectfully encourage you to support this important project to ensure the continued protection of valuable estuarine and freshwater wetlands as part of a special community forest project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Pruett", written over a horizontal line.

Mike Pruett, Vice President  
Land Management and Business Development Division

Exhibit 3. Project Letters



State of California Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
Region 1-Northern  
601 Locust Street, Redding, CA 96001  
[www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov)

*EDMUND G. BROWN, Jr. Governor*  
*CHARLTON H. BONHAM Director*



May 17, 2012

Mr. Dan Ashe  
Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1849 C Street  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Ashe:

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) is very supportive of the State Coastal Conservancy's proposed Ryan Creek Wetlands Conservation Project. CDFG has long recognized the tremendous natural resources on the property and worked with partners such as Green Diamond, Pacific Coast Fish, Wildlife and Wetlands Restoration Association, Humboldt Fish Action Council, Redwood Community Action Agency and Trout Unlimited for the enhancement and restoration of salmonid habitat in the watershed. CDFG wants to see the watershed protected and managed to enhance habitat value for fish and wildlife and to provide public access.

CDFG recently provided \$198,472 in state bond funds for a complete erosion inventory and assessment of 104 miles of forest roads in Ryan Creek watershed on Green Diamond Resource Company property. The fieldwork for this project is currently underway. In support of the Ryan Creek Wetlands Conservation project, CDFG is willing to count \$120,000 of the bond funds noted above as a match for the project.

We respectfully encourage you to support this important project for the protection of valuable estuarine and freshwater wetlands as part of a special community forest project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Flosi".

Gary Flosi  
Senior Environmental Scientist

Cc: ✓ Joel Gerwein  
State Coastal Conservancy

**RECEIVED**  
MAY 24 2012  
COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.

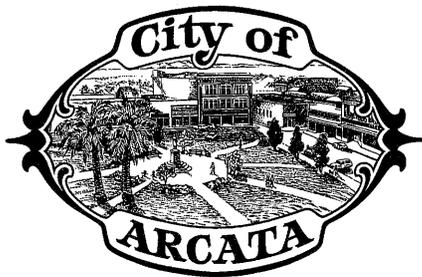


Exhibit 3. Project Letters

<i>City Manager</i> (707) 822-5953	<i>Environmental Services</i> 822-8184	<i>Police</i> 822-2428	<i>Recreation</i> 822-7091
<i>Community Development</i> 822-5955	<i>Finance</i> 822-5951	<i>Public Works</i> 822-5957	<i>Transportation</i> 822-3775

736 F Street  
Arcata, CA 95521

June 1, 2012

Mr. Dan Ashe  
Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1849 C Street  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Ashe:

The City of Arcata is very supportive of the State Coastal Conservancy's proposed Ryan Creek Protection Project. We recognize the tremendous natural resources on the property, and want to see them protected and managed to enhance habitat value for fish and wildlife and to provide public access. The City has extensive experience in community forest management, and has found that the Arcata Community Forest has been a great asset to our community, providing benefits for habitat, water quality, viewsheds and public recreation.

In support of the project, City staff has assisted Humboldt County (County) with community forest planning focused on the Ryan Creek property. City staff spent approximately 25 hours advising the County on the Ryan Creek project in 2011 and 2012, and anticipates spending an additional 40 hours over the course of the project. At a encumbered rate of \$ 83 an hour, City staff time is valued at \$5,395 total. The City is willing to count this staff time as match for the project. In addition the City of Arcata Forest Management Committee will be available to advise the County of Humboldt on aspects of setting up a community-based forest management program for Ryan Creek including transferable details of Arcata's adaptive management approach to increase biodiversity, accelerate old forest conditions, provide late successional forest habitat while providing revenue.

We respectfully encourage you to support this important project for the protection of valuable estuarine and freshwater wetlands as part of a special community forest project.

Sincerely,

MARK S. ANDRE, RPF #2391  
Director  
Environmental Services Department

Exhibit 3. Project Letters



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
**COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**  
825 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501-1153    PHONE (707) 476-2390    FAX (707) 445-7299

June 4, 2012

Mr. Dan Ashe, Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1849 C Street  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Ashe:

As chair of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I'm writing to offer strong support for the State Coastal Conservancy's proposed Ryan Creek Protection Project.

On December 6, 2011, we adopted a position of support for the concept of a community forest within the Ryan Creek watershed, and authorized staff to continue evaluating the feasibility of Humboldt County becoming the owner and manager of the community forest.

County staff are currently undertaking studies to confirm that a community forest will be economically feasible. We recognize the tremendous natural resources on the property, especially with its close proximity to Humboldt Bay, and want to see these resources protected and managed to enhance habitat value for fish and wildlife in conjunction with compatible public access. While a portion of the forestland in the proposed Ryan Creek community forest would be sustainably harvested, wetlands on the property would be protected and enhanced where feasible for wildlife habitat.

From October 2011 through April 2012, County staff spent approximately 90 hours working on the Ryan Creek project. At a loaded rate of \$60/hr, the value of this County staff time is \$5,400. The County is willing to count this staff time as match for the Coastal Conservancy's proposal.

We respectfully encourage you to support this important project for the protection of valuable estuarine and freshwater wetlands as part of a special community forest project.

Sincerely,

Virginia Bass, Chair  
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

VB:kh